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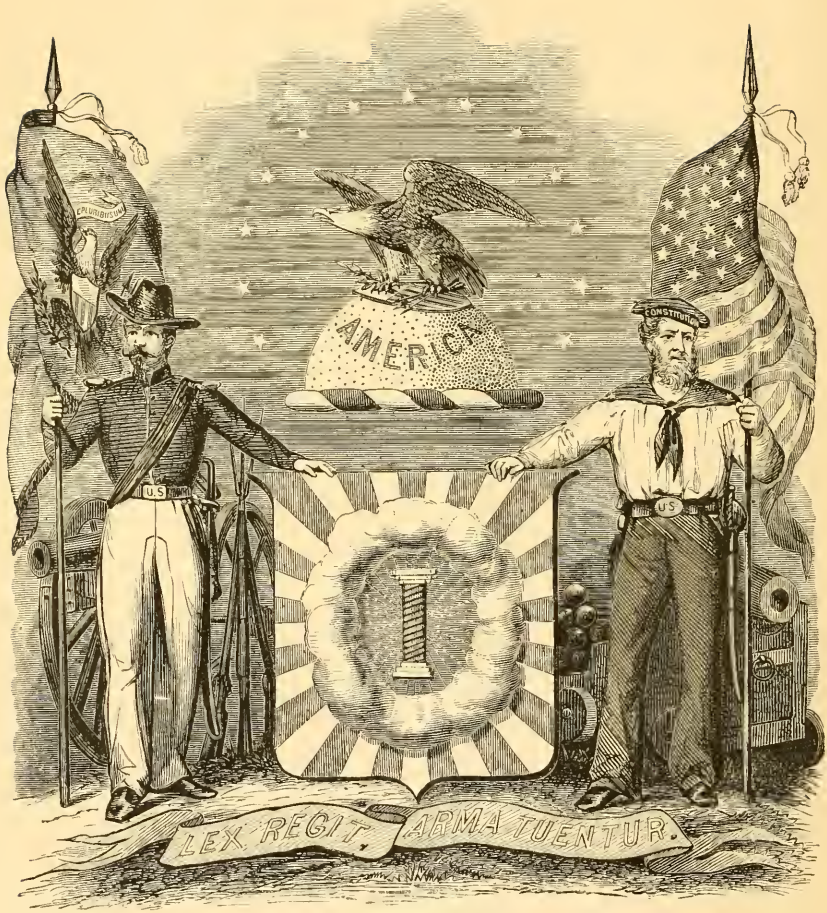
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THE

MILITARY ORDER

OF THE

LOYAL LEGION

OF THE

UNITED STATES

INSTITUTED APRIL 15, 1865

134.1

CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

PHILADELPHIA
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Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1865, for

THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE LOYAL LEGION OF THE UNITED STATES,

By Sam. B. Wylie Mitchell, M. D., Acting Recorder-in-Chief of said Order,

in the Clerk's Office of the District Court of the United States, for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1885, by

JOHN P. NICHOLSON,

Acting Recorder in Chief of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States,

in the Office of the Librarian of Congress.

Entered according to Act of Congress, in the year 1897, by

JOHN P. NICHOLSON,

Recorder-in-Chief of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States,

in the Office of the Librarian of Congress.

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Eighth Adjourned	" "	"	*June*	*2, 1897.*

Journal of the Eighth Quadrennial Congress, Detroit, Michigan, June 2–3, 1897.

Extract * * * * * * *

The Recorder-in-Chief:

Resolved, That all Amendments to the Constitution which have been adopted shall be promulgated to take effect July 4, 1897.

The resolution was unanimously adopted.

* * * * * * *

JOHN P. NICHOLSON,
Recorder-in-Chief.

BANCROFT GHERARDI,
Commander-in-Chief.

28 May 1928 WDM

CONSTITUTION.

PREAMBLE.

We, Officers and honorably discharged Officers of the Army, Navy and Marine Corps of the United States, whose names are hereunto annexed, having aided in maintaining the honor, integrity and supremacy of the National Government at a critical period of its history, and holding in remembrance the sacrifices in common made and the triumphs together shared in discharge of this sacred duty, unite to ordain and establish a permanent association for the purposes and objects hereinafter set forth, and to this end pledge our honor, as officers and gentlemen, to be governed by the following Constitution and By-Laws.

ARTICLE I.

TITLE.

This association shall be known as The Military Order of the Loyal Legion of the United States.

ARTICLE II.

PRINCIPLES.

This Order acknowledges as its fundamental principles—

First. A firm belief and trust in Almighty God, extolling Him under whose beneficent guidance the sovereignty and integrity of the Union have been maintained, the honor of the Flag vindicated, and the blessings of civil liberty secured, established and enlarged.

Second. True allegiance to the United States of America, based upon paramount respect for and fidelity to the National Constitution and Laws, manifested by discountenancing whatever may tend to weaken loyalty, incite to insurrection, treason or rebellion, or impair in any manner the efficiency and permanency of our free institutions.

ARTICLE III.

OBJECTS.

The objects of this Order shall be to cherish the memories and associations of the war waged in defence of the unity and indivisibility of the Republic; strengthen the ties of fraternal fellowship and sympathy formed by companionship-in-arms; advance the best interests of the soldiers and sailors of the United States especially of those associated as Companions of this Order, and extend all possible relief to their widows and children; foster the cultivation of military and

naval science; enforce unqualified allegiance to the General Government; protect the rights and liberties of American citizenship, and maintain National Honor, Union and Independence.

ARTICLE IV.

ORGANIZATION.

SECTION 1.—This Order shall be composed of State Commanderies and a National Commandery.

SEC. 2.—There shall be but one Commandery in each State, which shall be designated as "The Commandery of the State of ———," excepting the Commandery of the District of Columbia, which shall be designated as such. The relative seniority of the several State Commanderies shall be determined by the respective dates of their institution.

SEC. 3.—The National Commandery shall be designated "The Commandery-in-Chief."

SEC. 4.—Commanderies may become incorporated subject to the provisions of this Constitution.

ARTICLE V.

MEMBERS.

SECTION 1.—The Companions of this Order shall be elected, in the manner hereinafter provided, from the three classes below defined, and shall be entitled Companions of said classes respectively.

SEC. 2. FIRST CLASS: 1st. Commissioned officers and honorably discharged commissioned officers of the United States Army, Navy and Marine Corps, Regular

or Volunteer, including officers of assimilated or corresponding rank by appointment of the Secretary of War or Navy, who were actually engaged in the suppression of the Rebellion prior to the fifteenth day of April, 1865, and whose names appear in the Official Registers of the United States Army and Navy and of the Volunteer Force of the United States Army, or appeared upon the official records of the United States War or Navy Department during their term of service as commissioned officers of organizations mustered into the service of the United States, and not restricted to service within any given State for period of service not less than ninety days, or who served under the President's call of the fifteenth day of April, 1861; or who, having served as non-commissioned officers, warrant officers or enlisted men during the War of the Rebellion, have since been commissioned as officers in the United States Army, Navy or Marine Corps, or were commissioned as officers in the Volunteer Force prior to the twentieth day of August, 1866; and persons who, having served as non-commissioned officers, warrant officers or enlisted men as aforesaid, shall have become eligible to membership either through inheritance from officers who were members of the Order or who were eligible as such and shall have died; those who have been or shall be elected from the First Class as aforesaid shall be designated Original Companions of the First Class.

2d. The eldest direct male lineal descendants, according to the rules of primogeniture, of deceased

Original Companions of the First Class, and of officers not members of the Order, but who were eligible as such, who shall have died; and if there are no such descendants, then the male heirs of such deceased Companions or officers in the collateral branches of their families in the order of genealogical succession according to the rules of primogeniture, disregarding intervening female lives.

Provided, however, First. That the inheritance shall in every case of succession be traced anew from the original founder of the membership in the Order, or deceased officer as aforesaid, and not otherwise, and shall be limited in cases of collateral succession to the brothers, and descendants of brothers and sisters, of such Original Companion or deceased officer; in cases of representation through females, the elder branches shall be preferred to the younger:

Second. That any person eligible to membership by inheritance, or by renunciation of another, may, in writing, waive and renounce his right to such eligibility in favor of the person next entitled at the time of such renunciation, excepting that no person who is a direct lineal descendant of an Original Companion or deceased officer as aforesaid, shall be allowed to waive his right in favor of a collateral relative of such Original Companion or deceased officer:

Third. That in case a Companion of the First Class or person already eligible to membership is next in the line of inheritance from a deceased Original Companion or officer as aforesaid, the eligibility to membership

derived from such deceased Companion or officer shall devolve upon the person next entitled other than such living Companion or person already eligible or the direct lineal descendants of either; but any Original Companion having no direct lineal descendant may by writing filed with the Recorder of the Commandery in which he may be enrolled, or by his last will and testament, or instrument in the nature thereof, nominate for life his successor from among his male heirs within the said limits in the collateral branches of his family:

Fourth. That in cases of inheritance by persons under the age of twenty-one years the right of succession to eligibility to membership, or of renunciation thereof, shall remain in abeyance until they shall attain that age:

Fifth. That the resignation, expulsion or forfeiture of membership of a Companion who has obtained such membership by inheritance shall only work as a waiver of his rights in favor of the next person in the line of inheritance from the Original Companion or deceased officer as aforesaid:

Sixth. That no right of inheritance shall be derived from any Original Companion who has been expelled from the Order and not reinstated, but, in case an Original Companion shall have resigned or been dropped from the roll for non-payment of dues, his successor may be allowed by vote of a majority of the members of the Commandery present at any stated meeting to revive the said right:

Seventh. That such descendants or collateral heirs shall have first filed affidavits setting forth the facts upon which eligibility to membership is claimed.

SEC. 3.—SECOND CLASS: The eldest sons of living Original Companions of the First Class who shall have attained the age of twenty-one years. Upon the death of his father, a Companion of the Second Class shall become a Companion of the First Class, and be so announced to the Order by circular. Companions of the Second Class shall have the right to vote in all cases except in elections for membership in the First Class.

SEC. 4.—THIRD CLASS: Gentlemen who in civil life, during the Rebellion, were specially distinguished for conspicuous and consistent loyalty to the National Government, and were active and eminent in maintaining the supremacy of the same; but the number of Companions of the Third Class in any Commandery shall not exceed the ratio of one to thirty-three of those of the First Class. *Provided, however:* That no Companion of the Third Class shall be elected after the fifteenth day of April, 1890.

ARTICLE VI.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS.

SECTION 1.—Every application for membership shall be made to the Commandery of the State in which the applicant resides, if a Commandery exists therein, and if there be none, then to such Commandery as the applicant may select.

SEC. 2.—Every application for membership of the First or Second Class shall be made in writing and signed by the applicant, who shall be recommended in writing by three Companions of the First Class of the Commandery to which he shall apply, at least one of whom shall further vouch by letter for the candidate's worthiness. The application shall be accompanied by an admission fee of not less than twenty-five dollars, which shall be refunded in case of non-election.

SEC. 3.—The name, address and military record of every applicant for membership, together with the names of the Companions recommending him, shall be published in a circular and be referred to a committee of investigation, consisting of three Companions of the First Class, other than the recommending Companions, which committee shall report in writing at the next stated meeting. Upon the reading of the report, the Commander shall formally request any Companion who has any objection thereto, or reasons against the election of the applicant, to state the same if he so desires. If the application be for membership as an Original Companion of the First Class, each Original Companion present, and no other, shall cast one ballot for or against the applicant; but if the application be for membership by inheritance, every Companion of the First Class present shall cast one ballot for or against the applicant; and if the application be for membership in the Second Class, every Companion of that Class

present shall also vote. If not more than four adverse ballots be cast against the applicant, he shall be declared elected.

SEC. 4.—An application for membership may be withdrawn before report thereon, or after favorable report and before ballot; but if the report be unfavorable, the candidate must be balloted for.

SEC. 5.—Nominations for membership in the Third Class shall be made in writing to the Board of Officers by five Original Companions of the First Class. The Board of Officers shall act as a committee of investigation, and if satisfied that the nominee is worthy and eligible, shall favorably report his name to the Commandery, and state in writing the acts of conspicuous and consistent loyalty for which he was specially distinguished. The report shall be acted upon at the next stated meeting of the Commandery after its promulgation by circular. Upon the adoption of the report every Companion of the Commandery present shall cast one ballot for or against the candidate, and if no adverse ballot is cast against him, he shall be declared elected.

SEC. 6.—Companions shall subscribe to the Constitution, and shall be installed at a stated meeting, or by such written declaration as may be prescribed by the By-Laws.

SEC. 7.—Each Companion shall be entitled to the insignia during membership. Original Companions of the First Class, and Companions elected thereto by right

of inheritance from deceased officers, and Companions of the Third Class, shall be entitled to the diploma. The right to hold the insignia and diploma of a Companion of the First Class shall, after his death, remain in the relative next entitled to the membership—in the family, if there be no such relative, and in the Commandery through which they were issued, if there be no such relative or family. A Companion of the Second Class, upon becoming a Companion of the First Class, shall return to the Commandery in which he was elected the insignia in his possession as such Companion of the Second Class. The right to hold the insignia and diploma of a Companion of the Third Class shall, after his death, remain in his family, and in the Commandery through which they were issued if there be no such family.

SEC. 8.—If an applicant be rejected, such action shall be communicated to all Commanderies, and he shall be thereafter forever ineligible for election, except after one year in the Commandery by which he was rejected; and then only by unanimous ballot. If a candidate for membership by inheritance shall be rejected, the person standing next in regular order of inheritance shall be eligible.

SEC. 9.—Any Companion who shall disclose the name of another who has been instrumental in causing the rejection of an applicant for membership, or who shall give information that may lead to such disclosure, shall be liable to expulsion from the Order,

and the Commander shall cause this section to be read immediately after such rejection.

ARTICLE VII.

COMPANIONS-AT-LARGE.

Any gentleman who was engaged in the suppression of the Rebellion prior to the fifteenth day of April, 1865, serving upon staff duty without commission, may be elected a Companion-at-Large upon the nomination of a State Commandery, and election by the Commandery-in-Chief. Such nomination shall only be made upon due application and investigation, and by unanimous favorable ballot of the Companions present at the meeting when the report of the committee of investigation is submitted. Upon notification of the nomination the Commandery-in-Chief, after further investigation, shall act upon the nomination. The vote shall be by ballot, and one adverse ballot shall reject.

A Companion-at-Large shall become an Original Companion of the First Class, upon affiliation with the State Commandery by which he was nominated, and shall receive the diploma and insignia of the Order.

ARTICLE VIII.

RESIGNATIONS AND TRANSFERS.

SECTION 1.—Resignations shall be offered in writing at a stated meeting of the Commandery, accompanied by a certificate from the Recorder that all dues have been paid, and the insignia and diploma shall be returned, the registered number of which shall never be re-issued

except in case of his restoration to membership. Such resignation may be accepted by a two-thirds vote of the Companions present at any stated meeting, provided that it shall not be accepted pending charges.

SEC. 2.—A Companion who shall have resigned may upon application to the Commandery of which he had been a member be restored to membership by vote of a majority of the members of the Commandery present at any stated meeting: *Provided*, That notice of such intended action shall have been published by Circular. In case of such restoration his former number on the roll and the original number of his insignia shall be assigned and his original diploma returned to him.

Sec. 3.—A Companion changing his abode, or his station if in the Army, Navy or Marine Corps, may be transferred to the Commandery most accessible, upon written application to his Commandery, accompanied by a certificate that his dues have been paid.

ARTICLE IX.

FORFEITURE OF MEMBERSHIP.

SECTION 1.—Membership shall be forfeited only for violation of the obligations assumed on entering the Order, or for conduct unbecoming a gentleman. In such cases the diploma and insignia shall be returned to the Commandery.

SEC. 2.—If the conduct or character of any Companion be impeached, the accusing Companion shall prefer charges in writing to the Board of Officers, who

shall notify the accused; and if, after due investigation, the Board considers the charges to be sustained, it shall report its findings to the Commandery, notifying the accused of the time when the report is to be made. The accused may be expelled, suspended or reprimanded at a stated meeting by a vote of two-thirds of the members of the Commandery present.

SEC. 3.—The dismissal, cashiering or dishonorable discharge from the military or naval service of the United States, or the conviction in a court of justice of a criminal offence, of any Companion, shall constitute sufficient reason for his expulsion without further investigation.

SEC. 4.—A Companion who has been expelled may be reinstated by unanimous vote of the members of the Commandery present at a stated meeting, after he shall have petitioned in writing for reinstatement. Notice of such petition shall be published in the circular calling the stated meeting.

ARTICLE X.

DIPLOMA OF MEMBERSHIP.

SECTION 1.—Every Diploma of Membership shall be signed by the Commander-in-Chief, have the seal of the Order affixed thereto, and be attested by the Recorder-in-Chief.

SEC. 2.—The form of the Diploma for Original Companions of the First Class, other than those by right of inheritance from officers who shall have died prior to the thirty-first day of December, 1892, shall be as follows:

No.—

In the name and by the Authority of

[*COAT OF ARMS.*]

THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE LOYAL LEGION OF THE UNITED STATES.

THE COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF

To all to whom these Presents shall come,

GREETING:

KNOW YE, THAT_____

Having been specially distinguished for faithful services in maintaining the honor, integrity and supremacy of the Government of the United States of America, was received as a COMPANION OF THE FIRST CLASS OF THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE LOYAL LEGION OF THE UNITED STATES, on the__day of_____, Anno Domini __thousand__hundred and__, through the Commandery of the State of_____

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF the names of the proper Officers and the Seal of the Order are hereunto affixed.

GIVEN at Philadelphia, this__day of_____, in the year of our Lord__thousand__hundred and_____, and of the Independence of the United States of America the_____, and of the Order the_____.

_____

Commander-in-Chief.

Attest:—

_____

Recorder-in-Chief.

SEC. 3.—The form of the Diploma for Companions of the Third Class shall be similar in form to that for Original Companions of the First Class.

SEC. 4.—The form of the Diploma for Companions of the First Class by right of inheritance from officers who shall have died prior to the thirty-first day of December, 1892, shall be as follows:

No.—

In the name and by the Authority of

[*COAT OF ARMS.*]

THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE LOYAL LEGION OF THE UNITED STATES.

THE COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF

To all to whom these Presents shall come,

GREETING:

WHEREAS_____
was distinguished for faithful services in maintaining the honor, integrity and supremacy of the Government of the United States of America during the War of the Rebellion, and_____
NOW KNOW YE, THAT HIS_____was elected, by right of inheritance, a COMPANION OF THE FIRST CLASS OF THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE LOYAL LEGION OF THE UNITED STATES, on the__day of_____, Anno Domini___thousand___hundred and___, through the Commandery of the State of_____.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF the names of the proper Officers and the Seal of the Order are hereunto affixed.

GIVEN at Philadelphia, this__day of_____, in the year of our Lord___thousand___hundred and_____, and of the Independence of the United States of America the_____, and of the Order the_____.

_____,
Commander-in-Chief.

Attest:—

_____,
Recorder-in-Chief.

ARTICLE XI.

OFFICERS.

SECTION 1.—The Officers of the several State Commanderies shall be a Commander, a Senior Vice-Commander, a Junior Vice-Commander, a Recorder, a Registrar, a Treasurer, a Chancellor, a Chaplain, and a Council consisting of five Companions, which officers shall constitute the Board of Officers of the Commandery. They shall be elected annually by ballot by a majority of the votes cast. Should no candidate receive a majority of the votes cast at the first ballot, then the candidate receiving the lowest number of votes shall be dropped, and so on at each successive ballot. The Companions so elected shall be invested personally or by written acceptance, and enter upon office at once, and hold the same until their successors shall have been elected and invested.

SEC. 2.—The Officers of the Commandery-in-Chief shall be a Commander-in-Chief, a Senior Vice-Commander-in-Chief, a Junior Vice-Commander-in-Chief, a Recorder-in-Chief, a Registrar-in-Chief, a Treasurer-in-Chief, a Chancellor-in-Chief, a Chaplain-in-Chief, and a Council-in-Chief, consisting of five Companions, which officers shall constitute the Board of Officers of the Commandery-in-Chief. They shall be elected biennially in the manner prescribed for the election of officers of the State Commanderies, and shall be invested personally or by written acceptance and enter

upon their office at once, and hold the same until their successors shall have been elected and invested.

ARTICLE XII.

DUTIES AND POWERS OF OFFICERS.

SECTION 1.—It shall be the duty of the Commander to preside at all meetings of the Commandery and of the Board of Officers, enforce a strict observance of the Constitution and By-Laws, and perform such other duties as custom and parliamentary usage may require.

SEC. 2.—The Vice-Commanders shall, when called upon, assist the Commander, and in his absence perform his duties, and shall succeed, in order, to his office in event of his death, resignation, or removal.

SEC. 3.—It shall be the duty of the Recorder to record the proceedings of the Commandery and of the Board of Officers, and collect all moneys due the Commandery.

SEC. 4.—It shall be the duty of the Registrar to keep a register of the Companions of the Commandery, embracing the material facts relating to their membership. In the absence or disability of the Recorder, he shall act in his stead.

SEC. 5.—It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to receive from the Recorder all moneys belonging to the Commandery, and receipt therefor. He shall give such security as the Commandery may direct.

SEC. 6.—The Chancellor shall have the care and custody of the Insignia, Ribbon and Rosettes, and

shall issue, on proper requisitions, the diploma and insignia. In the absence or disability of the Treasurer, he shall act in his stead.

SEC. 7.—It shall be the duty of the Chaplain to open the several meetings of the Commandery with prayer, and perform such other duties as general custom may require of him.

SEC. 8.—The Council shall constitute a standing committee on accounts, and shall audit and adjust the Commandery's books semi-annually, or oftener if required to do so, rendering reports thereof to the Commandery.

SEC. 9.—The Board of Officers shall have general supervision and control over all property belonging to the Commandery. It shall have power to fill vacancies in any of the offices of the Commandery, until the time of the next election, except in that of Commander, which shall be filled as prescribed in Section 2 of this Article.

Sec. 10.—Other duties may be prescribed for the officers by the By-Laws or by the Commandery upon recommendation of the Board of Officers.

ARTICLE XIII.

REMOVAL OF OFFICERS.

Any officer who shall neglect or improperly perform the duties incumbent upon him, may be removed at any stated meeting by a vote of two-thirds of the members of the Commandery present.

ARTICLE XIV.

MEETINGS.

SECTION 1.—The stated meetings of the several State Commanderies shall be held at such times as they shall determine by a two-thirds vote: *Provided, however*, That every Commandery shall hold an annual meeting in the month of May for the election of officers.

SEC. 2.—Special meetings shall be convened at the pleasure of the Commander, or upon the written request of twenty-five Companions of the Commandery upon seven days' notice.

SEC. 3.—Fifteen Companions of the Commandery shall constitute a quorum at any meeting for the transaction of business.

SEC. 4.—None but Companions of the Order shall be present at its business meetings.

ARTICLE XV.

ARREARS.

SECTION 1.—No Companion in arrears shall be entitled to vote at the annual election for officers, or be eligible to any office in the Order.

SEC. 2.—Any Companion who, on the first day of April, may be in arrears for one year or more, shall be notified thereof; and if such arrears shall not be paid within three months after such notice, the Commandery may, by a majority vote of the members

present, suspend the Companion until such arrears shall be paid or remitted.

SEC. 3.—Any Companion who shall neglect or refuse to pay such arrears may be dropped from the roll by vote of two-thirds of the Companions present at any stated meeting, unless it shall appear that the delinquency has occurred unavoidably, in which case the Commandery, by a two-thirds vote, or the Board of Officers, by a unanimous vote of the members present at any business meeting, may remit the whole or any portion of such arrears. A Companion so dropped may, upon payment of such arrears, be reinstated by vote of a majority of the members of the Commandery present at any stated meeting: *Provided*, That notice of such intended action shall have been published by Circular.

ARTICLE XVI.

COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF.

SECTION 1.—The Commandery-in-Chief shall consist of the Commanders, ex-Commanders, Vice-Commanders, ex-Vice-Commanders, Recorders, and ex-Recorders of the several Commanderies.

SEC. 2.—The duties and powers of the officers of the Commandery-in-Chief shall correspond with those prescribed in this Constitution and By-Laws for officers of State Commanderies.

SEC. 3.—The chief executive and supreme judicial power shall be vested in the Commandery-in-Chief.

SEC. 4.—The Commandery-in-Chief shall, in the

name and by the authority of the Order, issue all diplomas of membership.

SEC. 5.—The Chancellor-in-Chief shall have the custody of the diploma-plate, dies, insignia, ribbon and rosettes, and, upon requisition, shall deliver to the Chancellors of State Commanderies the diplomas, insignia and rosettes required for their respective Companions.

SEC. 6.—Should any State Commandery cease to hold regular meetings for one year, its Charter may be revoked by the Commandery-in-Chief, and in the event of such revocation the Companions of such Commandery in good standing shall be transferred to such other Commanderies as they may elect.

SEC. 7.—The head-quarters of the Commandery-in-Chief shall be in the City of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and it shall there assemble at least once in every two years. Meetings shall be held in alternate years at such places as may be designated at preceding stated meetings. The Council-in-Chief shall meet annually.

SEC. 8.—Special meetings of the Commandery-in-Chief shall be convened at the pleasure of the Commander-in-Chief, or upon the written request of twenty members upon ten days' notice.

SEC. 9.—The expenses of the Commandery-in-Chief shall be provided for by a *pro rata* assessment upon each State Commandery, according to its respective number of Companions.

ARTICLE XVII.

STATE COMMANDERIES.

SECTION 1.—Authority to organize a State Commandery may be granted by the Commandery-in-Chief, upon the vote of two-thirds of its members present at any meeting, on written application by at least twenty Original Companions of the First Class, whereupon a Charter shall be issued.

SEC. 2.—The form of Charter shall be as follows:

In the Name and by the Authority of

[*COAT OF ARMS.*]

THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE LOYAL LEGION OF THE UNITED STATES.

THE COMMANDERY-IN-CHIEF

To all and singular to whom these Presents shall come,

GREETING:

KNOW YE, that our worthy Companions, _____ _____, _____ _____, _____ _____, _____ _____, _____ _____, _____ _____, _____ _____, are hereby authorized and empowered to institute, organize and establish a Commandery in_____, to be known as THE COMMANDERY OF THE STATE OF _____, OF THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE LOYAL LEGION OF THE UNITED STATES.

WITNESS the name of the Commander-in-Chief, and the Seal of the Order, attested by the Recorder-in-Chief, at Philadelphia, this_____day of_____in the year of our Lord_____thousand_____hundred and _____, and of the Independence of the United States of America the _____, and of the Order the_____,

_____,

Commander-in-Chief.

Attest:—

_____,

Recorder-in-Chief.

SEC. 3.— Upon issuing a Charter, the Commander-in-Chief shall designate the time and place for the organization of the Commandery. The officers shall then be chosen, and shall enter on their duties at once and hold office until their successors, elected at the annual meeting next following, shall have been invested.

SEC. 4.— Each Commandery shall have power to adopt rules and regulations for its own government, which shall not conflict with the Constitution and By-Laws of the Order.

SEC. 5.— Each Commandery, on the first day of May in every year, shall make a full report of its condition, with a general history of its proceedings to the Commandery-in-Chief.

ARTICLE XVIII.

CONGRESS OF THE ORDER.

SECTION 1.— A Congress of the Order, to be composed of the Commander-in-Chief, Recorder-in-Chief, and three representatives from each Commandery, shall assemble at least once in every four years, on the Wednesday next following the ninth day of April, at such place as shall have been designated by the preceding Congress.

SEC. 2.— Each State Commandery shall elect by ballot, at the stated meeting next preceding the month in which the Congress is to assemble, three representatives and three alternates, vacancies in the represent-

atives to be filled by the alternates in the order of their election. Vacancies in the representation of a Commandery may be filled by its representatives present selecting the requisite substitutes from Companions of the Order present at the Congress and not previously delegated as representatives or selected as substitutes by other Commanderies. When a Commandery cannot be represented in the Congress, the Commander shall cause to be transmitted to the Recorder-in-Chief duly certified authorization to the Commander-in-Chief to select from Companions not representing other Commanderies who may be present at the Congress three representatives for the Commandery, who shall have the full powers of other representatives.

SEC. 3.—All legislative power shall be vested in the Congress of the Order.

SEC. 4.—Votes in the Congress shall be by State Commanderies, each Commandery having one vote.

ARTICLE XIX.

COAT OF ARMS OF THE ORDER.

The Coat of Arms of the Order shall be :

Arms.—Gironné, (symbolical of unity,) of thirty-four, gules and argent, (representing the number of States forming the National Government at the commencement of the Rebellion;) a twisted pillar irradiated in pale, or, environed by an orl of clouds, proper. (*v.* Exodus xiii, 21, 22.)

Crest—Upon a wreath, argent and gules, a hemisphere, or, charged with the legend AMERICA, in letters

azure; thereon the National Eagle in defence, proper; all within thirteen étoiles of five points archwise, of the first, on a field of the fourth.

Supporters.— Dexter: A soldier under arms, his dexter hand supporting a lance, therefrom flying the Standard of the United States; Sinister: A sailor equipped for general quarters, his sinister hand supporting a pike, thereon hoisted the National Flag: all proper. The equipage of each as prescribed by the Regulations of 1861–1865 for the government of the Army and Navy.

Motto.— LEX REGIT ARMA TUENTUR, in letters argent, charged upon a scroll, purpure. (*v.* Frontispiece.)

ARTICLE XX.

SEAL OF THE ORDER.

The Seal of the Order shall be one and three-tenths inches in diameter, and shall consist of the Crest, as hereinbefore blazoned, the letters MDCCCLXV in base; the whole encircled by a band one-eighth of an inch wide, thereon the legend, SEAL OF THE MILITARY ORDER OF THE LOYAL LEGION OF THE UNITED STATES.

ARTICLE XXI.

INSIGNIA OF THE ORDER.

SECTION 1.—The Insignia of the Order shall consist of the Badge pendent by a link and a ring of gold from the Ribbon.

SEC. 2.—The Badge shall be as follows:

Obverse.—A cross of eight points, gold, cantoned with rays of gold, forming a star—its long diameter one and three-tenths inches, its short diameter eight-tenths of an inch. The cross enameled, azure, charged with a smaller cross of like proportions, enameled white and edged with gold. In the centre thereof, within a circle four-tenths of an inch in diameter, enameled gules, the National Eagle displayed gold. On the circle, gold, one-tenth of an inch wide, in relievo, the motto, LEX REGIT ARMA TUENTUR. (*v.* page 34.)

Reverse.—The star as above described. In the centre thereof, within a circle four-tenths of an inch in diameter, enameled gules, two sabres in saltire, their points in base; surmounted by a fasces palewise, ensigned with the Phrygian Cap; environed in chief with an arch of thirteen stars; in base, a wreath of laurel: all of gold. On the circle, gold, one-tenth of an inch wide, in relievo, the legend—M. O., LOYAL LEGION, U. S.—MDCCCLXV. (*v.* page 35.)

SEC. 3.—The reverse of the link of each Badge shall bear an engraved number corresponding to that of the registered number of the Diploma of the Companion to whom issued, and, when such Badge shall have been worn by an Original Companion, the obverse of the link shall bear the number of the Companion last entitled to it in succession.

SEC. 4.—The Ribbon shall be of watered silk, one and one-half inches wide.

For Original Companions of the First Class, the ribbon shall have a red centre eight-tenths of an inch wide, with a border of white and edging of blue, each three-and-one-half tenths of an inch wide. (*v.* page 34.)

For Companions of the First Class, other than Original Companions, and Companions of the Second and Third Classes, the ribbon shall have a blue centre eight-tenths of an inch wide, with a border of white and edging of red, each three-and-one-half tenths of an inch wide. (*v.* page 35.)

Sec. 5.—The Rosette of the Order shall be one-half of an inch in diameter, of watered silk, with six sector-shaped sections and a rim with six diagonal stripes on its face and sides.

For Original Companions of the First Class, the sector-shaped sections shall be of red, white and blue, the red sections being double the size of those of the other colors, with red loop in the centre. The rim shall be of the same colors, diagonal, the red stripes being double the width of those of the other colors.

For Companions of the First Class, other than Original Companions, and Companions of the Second and Third Classes, the sector-shaped sections shall be of blue, with white loop in the centre, and the rim of the same colors and design as prescribed for the Rosette of Original Companions of the First Class.

ARTICLE XXII.

UNIFORM OF THE ORDER.

SECTION 1.—On occasions of ceremony, Companions may wear the uniform of their respective arm and grade in the service.

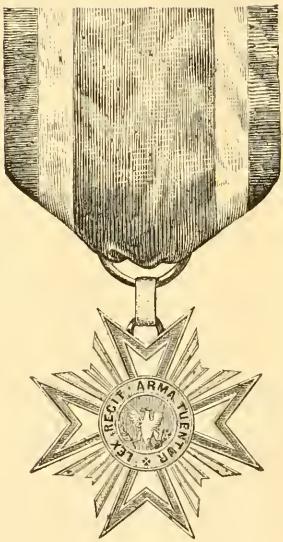
The Insignia shall be worn conspicuously on the left breast, except that Officers of the Order shall wear the Badge suspended by the Ribbon around the neck.

SEC. 2.—Companions when not on duty may wear the Rosette of the prescribed colors in the upper button-hole of the left lapel of the coat. The Rosette shall not be worn at the same time as the Insignia, and the Insignia shall be worn at all meetings of the Order.

ARTICLE XXIII.

AMENDMENTS.

No alteration, addition or amendment shall be made to this Constitution unless it shall have been proposed by a State Commandery, communicated to all other Commanderies, and ratified by the votes of three-fourths of the Commanderies at the next succeeding Congress.



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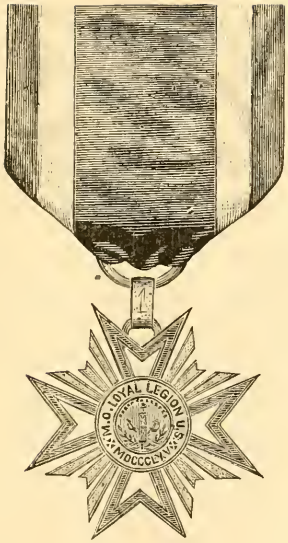

REVERSE.

BY-LAWS.

ARTICLE I.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

THE order of business at stated meetings shall be as follows:

1. The Commandery shall be called to order by the presiding officer.

2. The Chaplain shall pronounce the opening prayer.

3. The Recorder may call the roll of members.

4. The minutes of the last stated and all subsequent meetings shall be read and acted upon.

5. Companions-elect shall be installed.

6. The stated business of the meeting, if any, shall be considered.

7. Unfinished business shall be taken up.

8. Reports of officers and committees shall be heard.

9. Candidates for membership shall be balloted for.

10. Applications for membership may be received.

11. Written communications shall be presented.

12. New business may be introduced.

13. Adjournment.

ARTICLE II.

GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS.

SECTION 1.—The general parliamentary law shall govern the meetings of the Congress of the Order and the Commanderies.

SEC. 2.— All official orders, communications, records and proceedings, of whatever character, shall conform as nearly as possible to the general regulations, usages and customs of the military service of the United States.

ARTICLE III.

INVESTITURE OF OFFICERS.

A Companion elected to any office in the Order, before being invested with the authority of the same, shall make a formal declaration upon honor that he will well and faithfully perform the duties of the office upon which he is about to enter, and comply with all the established laws and usages of the Order.

ARTICLE IV.

ADDITIONAL DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

SECTION 1.— In addition to those prescribed by the Constitution, the following duties shall be performed by the several officers of the Commandery :—

It shall be the duty of the Commander to appoint all officers and committees not otherwise provided for, and sign all orders drawn upon the Treasurer, by order of the Board of Officers or the Commandery, for sums

necessary to defray expenses, and for other appropriations.

SEC. 2.— It shall be the duty of the Recorder to keep in books provided for the purpose,—

1st. The Constitution and By-Laws, rules and regulations of the Order.

2d. A letter-book of copies of all official letters.

3d. A ledger, to contain the accounts of the Commandery with its members.

4th. A receipt-book, in which to take the Treasurer's receipts.

5th. A book in which shall be recorded the names and rank in the service of all persons who have been declared ineligible for membership in the Order, and also of those Companions who may have been expelled from any Commandery, together with the reasons therefor.

It shall be his duty to keep these books in readiness for inspection by the Council, care for the archives of the Commandery, keep all accounts between the Commandery and its members, attest all orders drawn upon the Treasurer and give due notice of all meetings. On the first day of January in each year he shall forward to every Companion a statement of his account. He shall conduct the correspondence of the Commandery, and notify the Commandery-in-Chief and the State Commanderies, from time to time as they may occur, of applications, the withdrawals of applications, admissions, rejections, suspensions, expulsions, resignations, restorations and deaths. He shall notify the

families of deceased Companions of the First Class, of the provisions relating to succession to eligibility of membership. He shall have the care and custody of the Seal of the Order. He shall, at the last stated meeting in his term of office, make a full report of all moneys received during his term, and of all arrearages of Companions, and transfer to his successor in office, within two weeks after the expiration of his term, all books, papers, or other property in his possession belonging to his office.

SEC. 3.—The Treasurer shall pay all orders signed by the Commander and attested by the Recorder, and none others, and retain these orders as his vouchers. He shall keep accounts of his receipts and expenditures, making quarterly statements thereof. He shall pay over and deliver to his successor in office all moneys, vouchers, books and papers belonging to the Commandery.

SEC. 4.—The Chancellor shall keep in a book full and complete records of the issue of Diplomas, Insignia, Ribbon and Rosettes. In no case shall he issue a duplicate Diploma or Insignia except by a vote of the Commandery of which he is Chancellor, based upon the statement, upon honor, by the applicant that the original has been either lost or destroyed: *Provided*, That a Companion obtaining such duplicate shall pay the actual cost thereof.

SEC. 5.—It shall be the duty of the Board of Officers

to act as a court of honor for the just and amicable settlement of dissensions between Companions.

ARTICLE V.

INSTALLATION OF MEMBERS.

A Companion-elect upon being installed shall, orally if present, and in writing if absent, make declaration upon honor that he will maintain the Constitution of the Order, conform to its By-Laws and rules, and use his best endeavors to promote its objects and advance its interests.

ARTICLE VI.

FUNDS.

SECTION 1.—The fiscal year of the Order shall begin on the first day of January.

SEC. 2.—The funds for the expenses of the Order, and for purposes of relief, shall be raised by an annual assessment of at least five dollars upon each Companion, which shall be paid in advance.

SEC. 3.—Any Companion who shall pay, at one time, one hundred and fifty dollars in addition to his admission fee, shall be exempt from the payment of all further dues, and all sums so paid shall be transferred immediately to the Treasurer for investment in such securities as shall be approved by the Board of Officers.

SEC. 4.—Should a Companion who has commuted by payment as hereinbefore provided be transferred to another Commandery, there shall be paid to such

Commandery an amount bearing the same proportion to the present value of a life annuity—Carlisle Table, six per cent.—at his present age that the commutation fee originally paid by him bore to that value at his age at that time.

ARTICLE VII.

FINES.

SECTION 1.—The fundamental principles of this Order being recognized as its only test of loyal citizenship, the discussion or introduction of sectarian or partisan topics at meetings is prohibited, under penalty of such fine, not exceeding fifty dollars, as may be imposed by order of the Board of Officers.

SEC. 2.—All other violations of the principles and obligations of the Order or neglect of duty may be fined at the option of the Commandery.

ACTICLE VIII.

RELIEF.

Relief may be afforded to needy Companions, or the widows and orphans of deceased Companions. The Board of Officers, at its first meeting after installation, shall appoint nine Companions, to be approved by the Commandery, as a Relief Committee, to serve for one year from such approval, to which committee all applications for relief shall be referred. The committee may afford assistance in cases which admit of no delay, which shall be reported to the

Board of Officers at its next meeting. The expenses for such assistance shall be paid by an order on the Treasurer, duly signed and attested, but the said committee shall incur no other expenses, except by resolution of the Commandery.

ARTICLE IX.

AMENDMENTS.

No alteration, addition or amendment shall be made to the By-Laws unless agreed to in the Congress of the Order by three-fourths of the Commanderies.

INSTITUTED APRIL 15, 1865.

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